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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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MYSURU Saturday 8th May 2021
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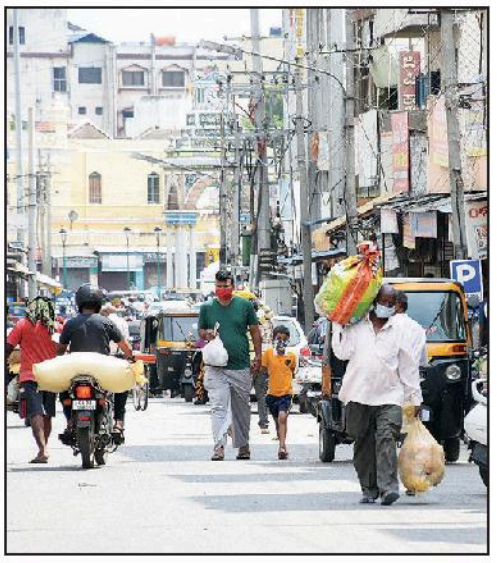
We Miss You too!
OUR OUTLETS WILL REOPEN
RIGHT AFTER THE LOCK DOWN.

Panic buying

▶ People flock provision stores to buy essentials for next weeks ▶ Traffic more within city limits



Mysuru, May 8 (RK&SSV)- Panic buying gripped the city this morning with people crowding provision stores to buy essentials ahead of the 15-day total lockdown from May 10 to check the surge of COVID-19 pandemic across the State.

Since early morning 6 when the shops opened, people thronged provision stores, fruit and vegetable stalls to stock them for the coming two weeks.

In fact, the guidelines released by the Government last evening, has allowed opening of provision stores all over the city from 6 am to 10 am.

Milk booths, HOPCOMS and pushcart vendors are allowed to do business from 6 am to 6 pm during the lockdown period.

Not understanding this, the Mysureans, with hand bags, 'raided' the shops and bought the essentials in large quantity thinking that all shops will be closed for two weeks from Monday next.

The rush of people was seen at retail stores of major brands to buy essential commodities.

Traffic in city looked like normal days with people moving in their two-wheelers and four-wheelers with their 'stocking mission.' At 11.30 am, the Police patrol vehicles hit the streets and asked shop-keepers to down the shutters exactly at 12 noon. The citizens were also sent back home by the cops.

Safety norms like social distancing was flouted by citizens at provision stores. They literally jostled to buy essentials without bothering about the increasing Corona positive cases in Mysuru District. The buzz of activities was witnessed more so in Central Business District than in residential areas where neighbourhood provision stores were opened to meet the needs of the area residents.

The wholesale fruit and vegetable markets on M.G. Road, Bandipalya APMC and RMC were also filled with people. The roads in and around these markets were busy and became deserted after 12 noon.

Goods vehicles carrying essential commodities to and fro from city plied as usual.

New CM & Dy.CM for State?

High Command game plan: Pralhad Joshi as CM, B.Y. Vijayendra as Dy.CM; Yediyurappa as Puducherry Governor

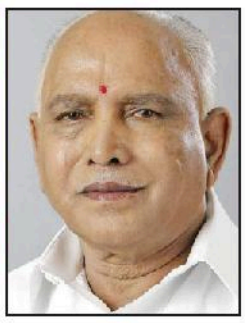
Bengaluru, May 8 (KMS & BCT)- There are murmurs of a possible change in leadership in Karnataka and political circles are abuzz with talk that Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa could be changed by the BJP High Command citing his age-related problems.

Yediyurappa is 78 and way past the BJP's unwritten 75-year-limit rule for leaders to hold constitutional posts. Pressure on Yediyurappa is piling up from the Opposition as well as within BJP and the chorus seeking his resignation has only got louder. Anything might happen at any moment in Karnataka, say sources.

The High Command is considering the name of Union Minister Pralhad Joshi for the post of CM. The names of Deputy CM Dr. C.N. Ashwathnarayan, Minister V. Somanna and rebel Basanagouda Patil Yatnal are also being considered.

Pralhad Joshi

B.Y. Vijayendra



B.S. Yediyurappa

The speculation got some credence when Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Yediyurappa's son B.Y. Vijayendra, who is also State BJP Vice-President, arrived in New Delhi on a special flight last night and met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Party's National General Secretary Arun Singh, who is in charge of Karnataka.

Hurried lockdown announcement

Sources said that as soon as Yediyurappa got a whiff of High Command's intention yesterday noon, he hurriedly called a meeting of officials and Ministers to announce a lockdown from May 10 to 24. The word 'lockdown' was intentionally introduced to convey to party bosses that the CM is indeed taking measures to control the pandemic.

It may be recalled here that in the last meeting with the CM and Ministers, the word 'lockdown' was avoided and 'Janata Curfew' or 'COVID Curfew' were coined. By stressing on the word 'lockdown' now, Yediyurappa wanted to deflect the attention of the High Command though there is not much of a difference between the existing restrictions and the restriction that will be imposed from May 10, sources said.

Damage-control mode

Bommai and Vijayendra also took State Advocate General Prabhuling Navadagi and a Supreme Court Advocate along with them and talks are on in New Delhi.

(See CM on page 7)

No curbs on newspaper distribution

Bengaluru, May 8- Indian Federation of Working Journalists has clarified that total lockdown imposed by the State Government from May 10 to 24 will not impact newspaper distribution and movement of newspaper carrying vehicles.

In a press release here yesterday, B.V. Mallikarjunaiah, President of the Federation, said some vested interests are into vilification campaign that the Coronavirus will spread through newspaper which is totally 'false and misleading.'

He said newspapers will continue to be distributed among readers during the coming 15-day complete lockdown.

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Saturday 8th May 2021

Private Hospitals to reserve 6,034 beds for COVID-19 patients: Health Minister

Bengaluru, May 8 (UNI)- Minister for Health and Medical Education Dr. K. Sudhakar on Thursday said that Private Medical College Hospitals have reserved 6,034 beds for COVID-19 patients, and 1,135 more beds will be available shortly across the State.

Addressing a meeting with Private Medical College Hospitals here, he said except mother and child care hospitals and non COVID-19 hospitals, more than 75 percent of the beds have been taken over by the Government for positive patients.

"The State Government is in touch with the Centre on the vaccination front. At present, we have five lakh vaccines in stock. The State has crossed one crore vaccinations as on Wednesday," he said.

The State has demanded two crore vaccine shots and the same is expected to reach here by May 15, he claimed.

Special incentives

The meeting also decided to give special incentives to final year MBBS and nursing students who will be treating Coronavirus patients.

Besides, the Government also decided to pay risk incentives to Health Department officials who are working in the pandemic.

Minister for Revenue R. Ashok and Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai participated in the meeting.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

COVID'S CUPID: ***When Bunny and I were simultaneously struck down by the nasty bug and put ourselves in home quarantine, added to the anxiety of possible hospitalisation, or worse, was the emotional dislocation of having lost our individuality and become two more anonymous statistics in the soaring graph of the Corona case load. This theft of the self can be almost as psychologically and emotionally debilitating as the physical ravages of the disease. How were we to reclaim ourselves as selves, not numbers? The solution came about spontaneously, and in a way that couldn't have been better.***

In order to prevent cross-infection, we had isolated in separate rooms and communicated through our mobiles. From the moment we woke in the mornings to just before going to sleep at night, we'd make repeated phone calls to each other. The content of our conversations was, by and large, of a practical, 'How are you getting on?' nature. We'd ask each other what our oximeter and thermometer readings were, and whether we'd remembered to have all the various medicines prescribed for us, and what we'd like for the next meal.

But these mundane telephonic exchanges brought back a tidal wave of memories of a romance that started in the Calcutta of over 50 years ago. As Bunny's unofficial fiancé, I was allowed by her dad to visit Bunny on a daily basis at their home. But at 7 pm sharp her dad would call out to the domestic help, *'Raju, khana lagao!'* ***We all knew that the family never ate before 8.30. The announcement was my signal to go. Curfew time. But late at night, both households asleep, Bunny and I would talk on the phone till early morning. What we said didn't matter, couched as it was in the sublime nonsense which is the prerogative of all lovers everywhere, taboo for eavesdropping ears. In remembrance, Bunny and I rediscovered that as we were then, so are we now. Cupid's darts can come in many forms. Not excluding the spike of the Coronavirus.*** — *Jug Suraiya in The Times of India*

NEWS SPARKLERS

Roaches released in restaurant to settle dispute

Taipei: Customers at a restaurant in Taipei, were recently shocked to see thousands of cockroaches crawling all over the place after they were released on the premises by two masked men.

On May 4, two masked men entered the G House Taipei restaurant holding large bags filled with over 1,000 cockroaches, which they simply released at the reception desk on the second floor of the establishment, before fleeing the scene. Roaches started crawling on the floor, walls and furniture and it wasn't long before customers enjoying their meals there started noticing them as well. Among the diners were personnel of Taipei Police Department who were attending a banquet there and they immediately created a task force to catch the perpetrators.

The five suspects are members of Bamboo Union, an organised crime ring which the restaurant owner allegedly owed money to. After their threats went unanswered, the criminals apparently decided to simply ruin the man's business.

The unique cast iron Church of Istanbul

Istanbul: The Bulgarian St. Stephen Church in Istanbul, Turkey, has the detailed ornaments of an Orthodox stone Church, but it's actually made of prefabricated cast iron elements.

Sometimes referred to as 'The Iron Church', St. Stephen Church is considered the largest prefabricated cast iron building in the world. It consists of thousands of prefabricated pieces of cast iron, from large walls, to small, intricate decorations, all of which weigh over 500 tons.

As almost the entire structure and its exquisite décor are cast out of iron, a close inspection reveals the heads of the large screws holding it together everywhere you look.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Eating right is the key

Along with the right amount of physical exercise, a proper healthy diet is also very important as it promotes joint and bone health. It is necessary that we consume a balanced diet in a way that we eat nutritional, healthy food in every meal we enjoy.

By Dr. Ravikiran - Consultant Orthopedics and Joint Replacement Surgeon

COLUMBIA ASIA

COLUMBIA ASIA HOSPITAL - MYSORE

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

A Johns Hopkins study found up to 10 kinds of antibiotics in the feather meal fed to chickens at factory farms. The antibiotics are used to make the chickens grow faster. You get the antibiotics second hand by eating fast food chicken. Antibiotics, when consumed, destroy the human microbiome.

COVID-19 UPDATE - MYSURU

DATES	MAY 6	MAY 7
Day's Positive Cases	2,531	2,246
Total Positive Cases	92,353	94,599
Day's Discharges	2,341	2,350
Total Discharges	74,318	76,668
Day's Deaths	18	22
Total Deaths	1,272	1,294
Total Active Cases	16,763	16,637

NOTE: Figures as per Government Media Bulletin

Govt. puts cap on CT-scan, digital X-ray fees

Bengaluru, May 8 (SSV) - Since CT-scan or X-ray is becoming increasingly necessary to detect COVID-19 infection, the State Government has decided to cap the price of CT-scan and X-ray in Private Hospitals and Labs at Rs.1,500 and Rs. 250 respectively, said Health and Medical Education Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar.

"We have received complaints that some hospitals and labs are exploiting people by charging high prices. To check this Government has decided to cap prices of CT-scan and X-ray at Private Hospitals and labs", he said.

Strict action will be taken against hospitals and labs which violate rules and charge high prices. The Government Hospitals are offering CT-scan and digital X-ray facility free of cost. People should utilise these Government facilities, said the Minister.

REALLY...?

- ***The Baily Bridge is the highest bridge in the world. It is located in the Ladakh valley between the Dras and Suru rivers in the Himalayan mountains. It was built by the Indian Army in August 1982.***
- ***Sushruta is regarded as the Father of Surgery. Over 2600 years ago Sushrata and his team conducted complicated surgeries like cataract, artificial limbs, cesareans, fractures, urinary stones, plastic surgery and brain surgeries.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Bus conductor: *Why are you taking two tickets?*
Passenger: *Because if I lose one that second ticket will save me.*
Conductor: *What if you lose both?*
Passenger: *Listen, I am not a fool. I already have my pass with me !!!*

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 73.29
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 102.53
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 19.95
1 Euro	= Rs. 89.15

VOICE OF THE READER

Shelve Group Housing

Project at Gokulam: Residents

Sir,

Apropos to the report ***"MUDA's Group Housing at Gokulam opposed"*** (*SOM* dated 21st April), we totally agree with Venkatachala, former Corporator and Madhu of City Co-operative Bank in opposing the proposed construction of cluster houses in Gokulam 3rd Stage.

The field around the Mysore-One Centre is a beautiful open space only one-of-its-kind in this layout. From the time the layout was formed in the early 70s, this has remained as an open field providing sufficient lung space.

Before the onset of COVID 19 children were seen in plenty playing various sports like Football, Cricket, Badminton etc. Even now a few of them are still playing.

Apart from this senior citizens are using the field for their morning walk. The proposed project of constructing an unimaginable 1,100 houses not only makes it a concrete jungle but adds to the woes of the residents in

making the narrow roads of Gokulam 3rd Stage still worse for a smooth traffic.

Considering all these facts we the residents of Gokulam 3rd Stage request the MUDA authorities to drop this unscientific project once and for all and leave the open space as a sports field developing it further with fencing and flood lighting it.

—Concerned Residents
Gokulam 3rd Stage
28.4.2021

Obituary

Mullengada Prakash

Mysuru, May 8- Mullengada Prakash (65) a resident of

1004, E & F Block, Ramakrishnanagar (behind Ruby Bakery), passed away in city yesterday.

He leaves behind his wife Anitha, son Sachin Somanna and a host of relatives and friends.

Cremation took place at Harishchandra Ghat, foot of Chamundi Hill this morning.

Chetrumada Shambhu Bheemaiah

Chetrumada Shambhu Bheemaiah (76), retired lecturer, Cauvery College, Gonikoppa and a resident of Nalloor village, Ponnampet, Kodagu, passed away in Mysuru early this morning.

He leaves behind his wife Bhavani, son Sanju Bopanna, daughter Shilpa, daughter-in-law, son-in-law and a host of relatives and friends. Cremation took place in Mysuru today.

Kookanda Shubha Subbamma

Kookanda Shubha Subbamma (64), wife of Kashiappa and a resident of Halligatt, Ponnampet, Kodagu, passed away in Mysuru early this morning.

She leaves behind her husband, one son, daughter-in-law and a host of relatives and friends. Cremation took place in Mysuru today.

Palecanda Yogesh

Palecanda Yogesh (49), owner of Bhagavathi Bus Service, passed away on Thursday night at Virajpet, Kodagu. He was also

running a cold storage and a medical shop in the town.

He leaves behind his mother, wife, two children and a host of relatives and friends.

Cremation took place at Kodava Samaja crematorium in Virajpet yesterday, according to family sources.

Tough rules from Monday to tame COVID-19 pandemic

CM warns of stern action against violators; Will public adhere?

Bengaluru, May 8 (SSV)- Heeding to experts' advice, Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has announced a total lockdown in the entire State from 6 am on May 10 till 6 am on May 24 in view of spiralling COVID-19 cases.

There was already a curfew in place in the State from April 27 which was to end on May 12. "The second wave of COVID-19 is creating havoc as the Corona Curfew imposed in the State has not yielded the expected result in reducing the infection and death rates. Therefore, the Government has decided to impose

B.S. Yediyurappa

a stringent measure to check the spread of the disease and death," the CM said after consultations with top brass of various Departments and his Cabinet colleagues here yesterday.

He said all shops and commercial establishments, hotels, pubs and bars will remain closed during this period. Essential goods and services like food, medicine, milk, fruits and vegetables will be available from 6 am to 10 am. Nobody will be allowed to come out on streets after 10 am. "We will initiate stringent action on those who violate lockdown measures," he warned.

"I appeal to all labourers not to leave Bengaluru… instead they will be allowed to work at construction sites," he said.

On Friday, Karnataka reported 48,781 fresh COVID-19 infections, while the fatality hit 17,804 with 592 new deaths. According to the Health Department bulletin, the total positive cases stood at 18,38,885, whereas there were 5,36,641 active cases in the State.

Stringent curbs

- ☑ Only flights and trains will continue to operate during this period. Flight and train tickets shall serve as passes for movement of persons by personal vehicles/taxis/cab aggregators/autorickshaws to board flight and trains.
- ☑ Metro rail services prohibited.
- ☑ Taxis (including autorickshaws) and services of cab aggregators, except while hired for emergency and as permitted in these guidelines.
- ☑ Schools, colleges, educational/coaching institutions etc., will remain closed. Online/ distance learning shall continue to be permitted and shall be encouraged.
- ☑ Hotels, restaurants, and hospitality services, except those meant for housing health/police/Government officials/healthcare workers/stranded persons including tourists, quarantine facility and Step Down Hospitals.
- ☑ However, hotels, restaurants and eateries shall be permitted to operate kitchens for takeaway/home delivery of food items only.
- ☑ No vehicles will be allowed to be used by persons for taking parcels/takeaway. Only movement by walk is allowed for this purpose. However, hotels, restaurants and eateries can use vehicles for home delivery.
- ☑ All cinema halls, shopping malls, gymnasiums, sports complexes, stadia, playgrounds, swimming pools, parks, entertainment parks, clubs, theatres, bars and auditoriums, assembly halls and similar places.
- ☑ All social/political/sports/entertainment/academic/cultural/religious functions/other gatherings & large congregations.
- ☑ All religious places/ places of worship shall be closed for public.
- ☑ No movement of public or private buses or passenger vehicles except as permitted under these guidelines.

What's allowed

- ☑ Inter-State and Intra-State movement of passenger vehicles, only in cases of emergencies or as permitted under these guidelines.
- ☑ Intra-District movement of passenger vehicles and buses only in emergency cases and strictly adhering to the prevailing SOPs/guidelines issued by Department of Health and Family Welfare.
- ☑ Shops dealing with food, groceries, fruits and vegetables, meat and fish, and animal fodder shall be allowed to function from 6 am to 10 am.
- ☑ Public Distribution System (Fair Price Shops) shops are allowed.
- ☑ Take away only is allowed from standalone liquor shops and outlets from 6 am to 10 am.
- ☑ Sale of vegetables and fruits through push-carts is allowed from 6 am to 6 pm.
- ☑ Milk booths & HOPCOM outlets allowed from 6 am to 6 pm.
- ☑ Home delivery of essential items shall be encouraged 24×7 to minimise movement of individuals outside their homes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public at large is hereby notified that our client is intending to purchase the residential house property bearing **No. 2197**, measuring East to West 12 Meters and North to South 9 Meters totally 108.00 Sq.Meters situated at "Vijaya Nagar IV Stage, 2nd Phase, Devaraja Mohalla, Mysuru, which is morefully described in the schedule mentioned hereunder from one Mr. S.Shiva Kumar, S/o. B.Shiva Nanjappa. If any person /persons has/have any right, title, interest or claim over the schedule property, they may lodge their claims / objections with the undersigned **within 7 days** from the date of this notification with supporting documents, failing which, our client will take it for granted that there are no claims /objections over the schedule property and he will proceed with the matter. Any claims/objections received after the stipulated period of 7 days will not be considered.

SCHEDULE

The Site property bearing **No.2197**, measuring East to West 12 Meters and North to South 9 Meters totally 108.00 Sq.Meters situated at "Vijaya Nagar IV Stage, 2nd Phase, Devaraja Mohalla, Mysuru, bounded on the: East by: Property No.2194, West by: Road, North by: Property bearing No.2196, South by: Property bearing No.2198.

Sd/- **(B. PANEESH KUMAR)**,
B.Sc., LLB. Advocate, #123, 11th Main, Kamaksni Hospital Road, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru 9.
Mob: 94480 32020.

Mysuru, Date: 05-05-2021.

NEWS BRIEFS

Temporary shelter, rehab facility for children

Temporary shelter and rehabilitation facility has been set up in the district to ensure timely care and support to children of COVID-19 infected parents as well as children with emergency needs. Counselling facility has also been established to help children overcome symptoms of depression and anxiety. Call free Helpline numbers 14499 for counselling session or Child Helpline number 1098 for temporary shelter and rehab facility. For details, contact A. Mamatha, Officer, District Child Protection Unit (Community Service), Mob: 95357-19019, according to a press release from Child Protection Officer S. Diwakar.

CWC to meet on May 10

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) would meet on Monday (May 10) to assess the party's losses in the just-concluded Assembly polls, amid demands from leaders for serious introspection over its poor performance at the hustings, New Delhi sources said.

Remdesivir quota for K'taka increased

Minister for Health and Medical Education Dr. K. Sudhakar on Friday said that the Centre has increased allocation of Remdesivir to 2,62,346 from May 10 to May 16. In a tweet he thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers D.V. Sadananda Gowda for increasing the quota and for their continued support to strengthen the State's battle against COVID-19 pandemic.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM

Maximum	:	124.80 feet
Yesterday	:	93.24 feet
Inflow	:	206 cusecs
Outflow	:	419 cusecs

KABINI DAM

Maximum	:	2,284.00 feet
Today	:	2258.86 feet
Inflow	:	218 cusecs
Outflow	:	725 cusecs

HARANGI DAM

Maximum	:	2,859.00 feet
Today	:	2,819.91 feet
Inflow	:	185 cusecs
Outflow	:	80 cusecs

Take measures to increase oxygen bed capacity in Kodagu District

Minister Somanna inspects Virajpet Govt. Hospital

Madikeri, May 8- Kodagu District in-Charge Minister V. Somanna said that all measures will be taken for increasing oxygen bed capacity in the district in the wake of rising COVID cases.

He was presiding over a review meeting on COVID Control and treatment measures at the ZP Hall here on Thursday.

Pointing out that there are plans to increase the number of oxygen beds in the district by 250, including 50 in Somwarpet, 20 in Pollibetta, 20 in Kutta and a good number in Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) Hospital, Somanna said that all Corona warriors and persons aged over 45 years should get compulsorily vaccinated for their own health and well-being.

Noting that several organisations such as Rotary, Lions and Chamber of Commerce have come forward for joining hands with the District Administration, he directed the authorities to take measures for refilling the 13 KL Oxygen tank at the District COVID Hospital. He also asked the authorities to ensure timely vaccine and oxygen supplies to the district in accordance with the demand.

Madikeri MLA Appachu Ranjan expressed concern over rising number of COVID deaths in the district. Noting that there are complaints that Doctors and Nursing Staff were complacent in taking care of patients, he urged the authorities to ensure proper food and boiled drinking water to all patients at COVID Hospital.

Virajpet MLA K.G. Bopaiah wanted the authorities to ensure that people above 60 years of age are vaccinated in the district. He also asked them to ensure that second dose is given to all the vaccinated.

MLC Veena Achaiah suggested to install CCTV cameras at ICU wards of COVID Hospital.

Another MLC Sunil Subramani said that the staff of Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) were doing a good job and they should continue with their good work, without giving scope for any complacency.

MP Pratap Simha said that the District has been provided with a 13 KL oxygen tank and the authorities should submit daily updates of oxygen requirement and use. Instructing the authorities to ensure that there is no oxygen shortage at any point of time, he said that there is every possibility that the deadly virus may peak in the coming days and the authorities should brace up themselves by augmenting oxygen capacity and number of oxygen beds.

Kodagu District in-Charge Secretary V. Anbukumar told the meeting that the oxygen bed capacity at the Medical College Hospital will be increased to 150 in phases.

DC Charulatha Somal said that 130 oxygen cylinders have been handed over to the DHO through the Tahsildars of three taluks in the district. Also, measures have been taken to take custody of all oxygen cylinders available at Kushalnagar Industrial Area after discussing with the owners of industries, she added.

KIMS Director Dr. Cariappa, Superintendent Dr. Lokesh, RCH Officer Dr. Gopinath and Dr. Anand spoke about the measures taken for COVID management and control in the district.

SP Kshama Mishra, Additional DC Raju Mogaveera, In-Charge Assistant Commissioner Srinivas and other officials were present.

Kodagu District Minister V. Somanna visited the Government Hospital in Virajpet on Thursday and inspected the COVID Centre besides collecting information about oxygen cylinder stocks and other medical equipment. The Minister was accompanied by MP Pratap Simha, MLA K.G. Bopaiah, Deputy Commissioner Charulatha Somal SP Kshama Mishra and other officials.

MCC apathy towards Valvemen

Mysuru, May 8 (PM&DM)- Even as MCC is busy in containing the spread of the deadly Coronavirus, there are allegations that it has ignored its own Valvemen who are very much part of the force that work in public places.

The MCC has been accused of failing to distribute safety gadgets such as masks, sanitisers and gloves to Valvemen who are serving at Vani Vilas Water Works (VVWW).

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Valvemen Naganna and Puneeth said that although they were working for 12-hours a day, the MCC seems little concerned about their health and well-being.

Maintaining that they have the task of supplying water to citizens at a time when citizens preferred to stay indoors during this COVID crisis, they said that they were a neglected lot, with the MCC showing a step-motherly attitude towards them, while it has taken care of all its other staff and Pourakarmikas.

Claiming that a fellow Valveman recently died of the virus, they said that they were feeling deeply concerned when going out for work in the absence of safety wears.

Contending that 21 Valvemen who are serving on contract basis are not paid wages for the past two months, they urged the MCC to come to their help by addressing issues concerning them.

SC rejects Centre's plea against K'taka HC order to increase oxygen quota

New Delhi, May 8 (UNI)- The Supreme Court on Friday turned down the Centre's plea challenging the Karnataka High Court order asking it to increase the liquid medical oxygen allocation for the State to 1,200 MT per day from the present 965 MT amid the second wave of COVID-19.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, on behalf of the Centre, told the Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and M.R. Shah that if High Courts pass such orders, it will be "unworkable."

"We will not interfere with this. Had we felt that they had stretched their powers, we would have interfered. But, this is well-considered and well-calibrated order," the Top Court observed.

The Bench further said, "We can't keep people of Karnataka in the lurch."

On May 4, the Karnataka HC Bench headed by Chief Justice A.S. Oka had questioned the Centre's reluctance to increase the allocation for the State amid the tragic incident that happened at Chamarajanagar, in which 24 people died at the COVID Hospital due to lack of oxygen supply.

Notably, the liquid oxygen allocation is controlled by the Central Government and the State cannot exceed the cap even if the oxygen is produced within the State.

Capital city Bengaluru is having two-thirds of Karnataka's cases and facing an acute crunch. Late last month, Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa had requested the Centre to provide 1,500 metric tonnes of oxygen daily to the State amid a surge in COVID cases.

Mandya, Chamarajanagar Ministers' visit to Mysuru oxygen units ruffles feathers

- **IP cameras to be installed at refilling plants to monitor unauthorised refilling, transportation: Pratap Simha**
- **Absence of a robust system in Karnataka for oxygen distribution to districts exposed**

Mysuru, May 8 (RK&BCT)- Seeking to tighten the monitoring mechanism at oxygen refilling plants in Mysuru city, Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha has asked authorities to install IP cameras so as to keep tabs on the dispatch of cylinders personally.

The Internet Protocol camera, or IP camera, is a type of digital video camera that receives control data and sends image data via an IP network. They would be linked to the mobile phones so that all movements of incoming stocks from oxygen factories and the outgoing cylinders from the refilling plants are monitored. The MP's move has brought to the fore the lack of a robust system in Karnataka for oxygen distribution to districts based on actual requirements.

Pratap Simha's decision was conveyed to the officials during the first meeting of the Task Force — for oxygen and Remdesivir drug management — constituted under the MP by District Minister S.T. Somashekar.

"The existing load of COVID-19 patients in Mysuru was crippling the health infrastructure and the numbers are expected to double when the second wave peaks and we are preparing for it. We have asked the oxygen refilling companies to restrict supply only to hospitals in Mysuru. Eight IP cameras would be installed to monitor oxygen supplies," he told reporters.

"IP cameras linked to a control room will be installed at refilling plants and at the distributors' end to monitor unauthorised refilling and transportation," he added.

MP Pratap Simha displaying an IP camera set.

The IP camera measure comes in the wake of Mandya District Minister K.C. Narayanagowda and Chamarajanagar District Minister S. Suresh Kumar monitoring and personally overseeing the transportation of oxygen cylinders to their districts from private refilling agencies in Mysuru.

Taking exception to this, the MP said that Narayanagowda and Suresh Kumar accompanied by Chamarajanagar DC Dr. M.R. Ravi visited Mysuru along with Police escort and got oxygen cylinders filled. "Is it right to do so. It is unjust authority of power," he alleged. Narayanagowda transported 350 cylinders with Police escort.

"The Ministers should stop this kind of attitude. Let them ask Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa to fix a quota and demand the Government to supply required oxygen. They should resolve the issue with the Chief Secretary and not totally depend on Mysuru for oxygen supply. We will not tolerate oppression and threats. Taking oxygen with the Police force is not right," the MP said.

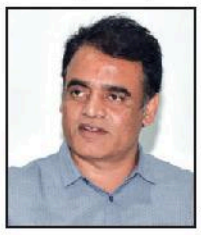
"Oxygen is being given to other districts on a humanitarian basis from Mysuru and taking control of it is unacceptable. We do not produce oxygen in Mysuru but only refill. We are facing a shortage and the neighbouring districts should not trouble us," Pratap Simha said. Mysuru has a requirement of 48 Kilo Litres of oxygen per day and was getting only half of its requirements.

The issue also came up in the meeting convened by Somashekar recently and he said that would seek the intervention of the Chief Minister to ensure that Mysuru's requirement of 48 Kilo Litres of oxygen per day was not affected

The MP said that he had suggested the State Government to fix quota of oxygen to be supplied to Mandya and Chamarajanagar from Mysuru but no step has been taken, he said.

Meanwhile, Minister Suresh Kumar said that as a Minister he was aware of his responsibilities. "My intention is not to divert Mysuru's oxygen requirement to Chamarajanagar. My decision to visit oxygen refilling units in Mysuru was to acquaint myself with the filling process of cylinders and the total time required," he added.

7,000 medicos to provide tele-consultation services for home isolated patients



Dr. Ashwathnarayan

Bengaluru, May 8 (SSV)- In all, 7,000 medical students studying in various courses will be roped in to provide tele-consultation services to those who undergo home isolation after testing positive for COVID-19, said Deputy Chief Minister and Chairman of State COVID Task Force Dr. C.N. Ashwathnarayan.

Informing this after a meeting with Senior IAS Officer Pankaj Kumar Pandey, who is in charge of home isolation and other officials, he said the process to rope in 7,000 students has been already initiated and 4,000 have registered. They have been trained to provide tele-medicine service.

At present 700 are already working and it will be made mandatory for the remaining to appear for the required service. "Better service could be given if medical students provide consultations rather than this being done by personnel of call centres," he said.

The Dy.CM said he has discussed with Rajendra Cholan, BBMP Special Commissioner (Health), about strengthening the Labs. In Malleshwaram, the results are being given within 24 hours and the same needs to be expanded to the entire State, he noted.

Stating that measures will be taken to set up more Step Down Hospitals, he directed the officials to shift patients to Step Down Hospitals after 5 days of treatment.

Stable patients to be shifted to CCCs or Step Down Hospitals

Bengaluru, May 8 (SSV)- In order to make hospitalisation available to the needy, it has been suggested by the Treatment Protocol Committee to take stricter measures to shift 30 to 40 percent of the bed occupants who are not seriously ill but staying in the hospitals to COVID Care Centres (CCCs) or Step Down Hospitals.

Deputy Chief Minister and State COVID Task Force Chairman Dr. C.N. Ashwathnarayan told media persons on Friday that patients, whose condition improve and become stable after the initial days of treatment need not continue to stay there for 14 days or so. Normally, the condition of the infected becomes stable after 4-5 days of treatment and then they should be shifted to CCCs or Step Down Hospitals. This is applicable for patients both in the Government and Private Hospitals, he said.

As more number of infected were getting admitted to hospitals even though they don't require hospitalisation, he said the Committee has decided to put a check on this too. In fact, hospitalisation was necessary only for those whose oxygen saturation dips below 90. To avoid unnecessary hospitalisation, triaging of the infected in Fever Clinics will be augmented.

For those who are not able to go to Fever Clinics, the health staff will be sent to the homes of the infected to conduct triaging, he added.

Auditing, quality maintenance and monitoring is necessary in every hospital to facilitate quality treatment and this must be implemented immediately. Since a large number of infected were undergoing home isolation, follow-up of these infected will be given importance. Tele-consultation and testing of primary contacts of home isolated will be given prominence, he stated.

COVID-19 HELPLINE

MYSURU

0821-2424111
0821-2957811
0821-2957711

For victim's funeral contact MCC

94498-41195
94498-41196
0821-2418800

MANDYA

District War Room
08232-229393
08232-223033

Mandya Taluk
08232-224248

Maddur Taluk
08232-232010

Malavalli Taluk
08231-242277

Srirangapatna Taluk
08236-252029

Pandavapura Taluk
08236-255128

Nagamangala Taluk
082324-285045

K.R. Pet Taluk
08230-262227

KODAGU

COVID Hospital
08272-220606

District Helpline
08272-221077

Madikeri
08272-228396

Virajpet / Ponnampet
08274-256328

Somwarpet / Kushalnagar
08276-282045

CH'NAGAR

08226-223160
08226-1077

May Flower(s) paint the city red !

Come May, the hot summer month, most of the spring season *(vasantha ruthu)* trees and other plants would have already unravelled their floral beauty. On the other hand, two divergent plant species, a tree and a herb with the same common name 'Mayflower' mesmerise the onlookers with their glitzy red blooms. One is 'Gulmohar' tree and another is 'Football lily', a herb. Both are high up with charming blooms during this month. That is why they are known as 'Mayflower(s)'. These red bloomers are flowering in our city now in various places (avenues, parks and gardens) attracting the attention of the passersby.

Gulmohar (Delonix regia) is an avenue tree ('Gul' meaning flower and 'mor', a peacock, peacock like) covered with flamboyant clusters of flame-red flowers displayed in almost leafless condition. It is noted for its fern-like leaves and extravagant display of orange red blooms. It is also known as 'Royal Poinciana' or 'Flamboyant'. As the peak flowering occurs during the Pentacoast (50 days after "Easter") it is also known by the name 'Pentacost tree' or 'Holy Ghost tree' in Mumbai area. The Kannada name is 'Kattikai" & 'Doddaratnagandhi'. Some call it as 'flame of the forest', which is a misnomer. Butea monosperma *(Mutthuga)* is the real flame of the forest belonging to the same family.

Football lily also known as 'Monsoon Lily', 'Blood lily' and 'Fireball' is a small bulbous monocotyledon, native to tropical Africa. In Kannada it is known as *'Boo chakra hoovu'*. It's scientific name is Scadoxus multiflorus (syn., Haemanthus multiflorus) belonging to Liliaceae family and related to onion plant. The floral form is a novelty as the inflorescence is big and spherical, resembling the football, with its numerous scarlet flowers grouped in a large round umbel on top of a long stalk. The arrival of the flowers every year will be a welcome surprise as they shoot up suddenly from the subterranean tuber (under ground stem).

The floral-ball, emerging out amidst the greenery, makes a majestic appearance though for a short and sweet duration. The leaves which appear later are bright green and attractive. The bulbs multiply each year.

TREE FACTS

COMPARISON

Both have high ornamental value. While the floral ball of Football lily is short lived for a week or two, the Gulmohar blooms are long-lasting for several weeks. Interesting feature is all parts of 'football lily' are poisonous, reminding one of *vishakanye'*of puranas, a charming woman with a venomous body. Toxicity is due to lycosine and other alkaloids. Nevertheless, one need not be afraid of their toxic nature as it is not fatal. The plant is absolutely safe to grow in your gardens. But do not forget to wash hands thoroughly with soap after handling the plants.

In contrast 'Gulmohar' with is non-poisonous & flower buds are edible & used for flavouring. Besides, the tree provides shade. Interestingly football lily, an annual quietly disappears in to the ground and unaffected by the rain and the wind. Whereas Gulmohar, a perennial with its shallow roots is likely to fall down during heavy wind and rain fall.

While gulmohar, loftly holding its floral-spray, is omnipresent (even in lanes and by-lanes), the lily, mostly restricted to certain home gardens and a chance meeting in gardens and parks.

In my view these 'Mayflowers' leave a lasting impression in the hearts of plant lovers with their showy red blooms in red hot May. Are they not painting the city red?

Text & photographs by
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Mysuru DC's 'Pancha Sutra' to combat COVID contagion

Union Health Ministry issues generic diet plan to boost immunity

Mysuru, May 8 (RK&BCT)- The Mysuru District Administration has come up with a unique 5-point plan of action to control the spread of COVID-19. Calling the plan 'COVID Mithra Pancha Sutra', Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri has urged the people to follow the guidelines:

Rohini Sindhuri

1. As soon as you get COVID symptoms, isolate yourselves at home and stay away from family. Mandatorily wear a mask.

2. Take medication in consultation with your doctor and inhale hot steam. Sleep in prone position — patients are made to lie on their abdomen to boost their oxygen levels. Proning has its immediate benefits. Have healthy and nutritious food.

3. Instead of panicking and struggling to get into a hospital following symptoms, call **COVID Mitra Helpline 0821-2424111.** In case of requirement, beds will be allotted and patients taken to the hospitals.

4. Don't wait for RT-PCR tests. Call the doctor and start taking antibiotics. Chest CT Scan, CRP-D-Dimer tests must be done.

5. COVID pandemic cannot be curbed if all people go for RT-PCR tests. Only precautionary measures taken in five days after symptoms surface, consultation with doctors and timely medication will help.

Amid India's fight against the Coronavirus, the Health Ministry has issued an advisory suggesting the generic diet plan to boost immunity of COVID patients.

For those suffering from COVID-19, the Centre recommends dark chocolate, turmeric milk, and protein-rich foods. The Government suggested a basic diet plan, through *mygovindia's* Twitter handle, to help improve immunity and preserve muscle strength and energy. COVID-19 causes patients to lose their sense of taste and smell, as well as their appetite and ability to swallow food. Since it could lead to muscle loss, the Government recommended consuming soft foods at regular intervals and adding amchoor to the diet.

What should you eat to boost immunity amid COVID?

Here's what the Government of India says:

- The main focus for COVID patients is to consume foods that would help rebuild muscles, immunity and energy levels.
- Whole grains like ragi, oats and amaranth are advised.
- Good sources of protein such as chicken, fish, eggs, paneer, soy, nuts and seeds recommended
- Healthy fats like walnuts, almonds, olive oil, and mustard oil recommended
- Regular physical activity (yoga) and breathing exercises advised (pranayama), as per tolerance
- 5 servings of coloured fruits and vegetables to get adequate vitamins and minerals recommended
- Small amounts of dark chocolate with at least 70 percent cocoa to get rid of anxiety
- Take turmeric milk once a day to boost immunity
- Most COVID patients experience loss of smell and taste or difficulty in swallowing. It is important to eat soft foods at small intervals and to add amchoor (dry mango) in the food.

At COVID review meeting, Mandya District Minister-JD(S) MLAs exchange barbs

Mandya, May 8 (Mohan Raj)- The Mandya District COVID review meeting held at the ZP Hall here on Friday turned out into a verbal duel between District Minister K.C. Narayanagowda and JD(S) legislators of district.

Soon as the meeting began, Srirangapatna JD(S) MLA Ravindra Srikantaiah with the backing of fellow party legislators, accused the Government and officials of failing to provide beds for COVID affected and to check the rapid spread of the deadly virus.

District Minister K.C. Narayanagowda sought two days time to rectify the lapses. MP Sumalatha too appealed for a free and fair discussion on the issue. But an unheeding JD(S) Legislators continued with their tirade against the Government, without allowing for a discussion, following which an upset Sumalatha left the meeting midway.

MLA Ravindra Sreekanataiah wanted to know what the Karnataka Government and 25 BJP MPs of the State were doing for the benefit of the poor at a time when Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had announced a Rs. 4,000 financial assistance to every poor family in that State, just hours after he assumed office as the CM on Friday.

MIMS Director Dr. Harish said that the Institute should have got 7 KL of oxygen from Ballari by now. But there has been a delay in delivery and this is the reason for the delay in the commissioning of 150 oxygenated beds at the Hospital. He assured that necessary measures will be taken to ensure that there are no problems concerning the available oxygen beds.

Later, Ravindra and Malavalli MLA Annadani took K.C. Narayanagowda to task for giving false information regarding the number of available oxygen beds and oxygen supplies to the district. They also charged the BJP Government of failing to check the spread of the virus by taking appropriate and effective measures. Responding to the charges, the Minister assured of addressing oxygen bed issues in a couple of days. Maintaining that he had been successful in getting 350 Jumbo cylinders from Mysuru, Narayangowda questioned the attitude of JD(S) leaders, who were repeatedly targeting him.

Claiming that Mandya district had recorded 50 COVID deaths in the last one week, the JD(S) legislators alleged that the district was facing a shortage of Remdesivir injections and the Government had failed in timely delivery of this vital injection.

They urged the District Minister to ensure that there is no shortage of this injection and also address the issue of oxygen supplies by taking up the case with the Government. They also alleged that officials had failed in ensuring that those under home isolation stayed indoors at least until the specified period.

Earlier, the meeting also saw an altercation between MP Sumalatha and MLA Ravindra over the issue of oxygen supplies to the district. Contending that Maharashtra was diverting oxygen supplies meant for Karnataka, Ravindra wanted to know what our MPs are doing when the State is facing a severe oxygen crisis. MP Sumalatha said that she has written a letter to the Prime Minister and she was ready to read it out at the meeting. Ravindra maintained that there was no point in writing to the PM now as the second wave of COVID is reaching its peak.

New CM & Dy.CM for State?

(Continued from page 1)

The BJP High Command has moved decisively to protect the party's image in the wake of deepening or call it worsening COVID-19 situation in Karnataka where things have gone out of control.

Though Bommai and Vijayendra have projected that the State was doing its best to contain the virus, the High Command is not convinced, sources said. Added to this, there is a disgruntlement among the party and Ministers on Yediyurappa's style of functioning and his own party MPs, MLAs have unearthed scams — BBMP's bed scam unearthed by MP Tejaswi Surya for example — that thrived under the very nose of the Government in the State Capital.

These scams have embarrassed the ruling party and even the Union Government has come under severe censure by the people (even by traditional BJP voters) who are bearing the brunt of the virus outbreak.

The High Command is in damage-control mode and wants to enforce a change of guard. Amit Shah and Arun Singh are holding separate talks and sources said that the party bosses are toying with the idea of making Vijayendra the Deputy CM and posting Yediyurappa as the Puducherry Governor.

Caste compulsions

Pralhad Joshi is a Brahmin and Ashwathnarayan is a Vokkaliga. The names of Yatnal and Somanna (both Lingayats) have figured in the list so as not to antagonise Lingayat vote base. Also, the High Command is considering seating Vijayendra as Deputy CM to placate Yediyurappa and also not to ruffle feathers within the Yediyurappa loyalists, sources said.

During a recent discussion with the RSS leadership, Yediyurappa is learnt to have given two options for his exit — making Ashwathnarayan the CM with Vijayendra as his Deputy or making Basavaraj Bommai (Lingayat) the CM and by giving Vijayendra a prominent party position, sources added.

Postcard stir seeking 10-kg ration rice

Mysuru, May 8 (PM&SD)- Members of **Mysuru City (District) Congress Prachara Samithi** staged a 'postcard' stir this morning urging the State Government to distribute 10-kg rice to ration card holders.

The protest was held at Lakshmipuram Post Office, Narayana Shastri Road, where the protesters posted cards at the postal box. They urged the Government to restart the Anna Bhagya scheme, which had been launched by the then Chief Minister Siddharamaiah and tackle the pandemic in a more effective way.

Samithi President Dr. M.K. Ashok, former MLA Somshekhar and others were present.

Alleging that the State BJP Government has failed to contain the spread of pandemic all over the State, members of **Mysuru Kannada Vedike,** wearing black bands, held protest at Mysore City Corporation (MCC) Zone-1 premises located at Agrahara here this morning. The protestors shouted slogans and urged Chief Minister and Health Minister to resign immediately.

Urging MCC to distribute food to destitute and shelter-less, members of **Karnataka Dalitha Sangharsha Samithi** staged a protest near the Ambedkar statue in front of Town Hall this morning. They alleged that the Janata Curfew has adversely affected thousands of destitute and shelter-less in city.

The district administration should immediately set up a Gruel Centre *(Ganji Kendra)* and distribute food to such persons daily, they demanded. Samithi members Malnadi, K. Nanjappa and others were present.

District In-Charge Secretary asks officials to prevent bed-blocking

Mysuru, May 8 (MTY&DM)- District In-Charge Secretary N. Jayaram has asked officials to ensure that bed-blocking scam that was unearthed in Bengaluru recently does not recur in Mysuru.

Addressing a progress review meeting on COVID control measures taken by the District Administration at the ZP Hall here yesterday, Jayaram, who also took charge as Mysuru ZP Administrative Officer, said that utmost priority must be given for critical patients who need oxygen and ventilator support.

Noting that the second wave of COVID attack is proving to be more fatal than the first one, he said that the District Administration must take more stricter measures to check the spread of the virus and to ensure that oxygenated beds are readily available for critical patients.

Stressing on the need for preventing unnecessary admissions in Hospitals, Jayaram highlighted the benefits of stopping unnecessary Hospital admissions, as such a measure will reduce the stress on doctors and other Hospital staff.

Stating that asymptomatic patients can be asked to undergo home isolation, he said that the number of deaths is rising with the increasing number of positive cases in the district, which has caused scare among the public.

Emphasising on the need to publicise the number of patients who recover, he said that the district authorities must act sternly against those organising functions and programmes amid COVID crisis.

Expressing concern over rising Corona cases in rural parts too, Jayaram directed for setting up COVID Care Centres at Taluk and Hobli levels too in order to reduce the pressure on city Hospitals. Suggesting to temporarily convert Student Hostels and educational institutions' buildings as COVID Care Centres, he said that asymptomatic patients can be taken care of here, with help from social service organisations.

Jayaram also directed the Police to take stringent action against unnecessary movement of people on streets, by seizing vehicles and penalising COVID guidelines violators.

The District In-Charge Secretary instructed DHO Dr. T. Amarnath to seek the assistance of Indian Medical Association for deputation of doctors for treating COVID patients.

DC Rohini Sindhuri, ZP CEO A.M.Yogesh, MCC Commissioner Shilpa Nag, MUDA Commisioner Dr.D.B.Natesh, SP C.B. Ryshyanth, city Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta, DCP Dr.A.N.Prakash Gowda and other officials were present.

N. Jayaram takes charge as Mysuru ZP Administrative Officer

IAS Officer and District in-Charge Secretary N. Jayaram (left) took charge as Mysuru Zilla Panchayat (ZP) Administrative Officer, following his appointment subsequent to the expiry of the ZP term, at the ZP Hall here on Friday. ZP CEO A.M. Yogesh is seen receiving him with a bouquet.

Corona Service Force formed to take care of rural people

Helpline 97400-69310

Mysuru, May 8 (PM&DM)- Coming to the rescue of COVID infected people in rural areas, the Karnataka Sugarcane Growers Association has formed a COVID Seva Pade (COVID Service Force) for people in rural areas.

Announcing this at a press meet here on Thursday, Association President Kurubur Shanthakumar said that the Force will work from the Office of Raitha Mitra Farm Producer Company located near APMC at Bandipalya on Nanjangud road.

Pointing out that this Force has been constituted after consulting all like-minded personalities who have a flair for rural and social service, Shanthakumar said that a ten-member consultation team has been constituted for tele-medicine services to COVID affected. He further said that a Helpline 97400-69310 has been launched , to which the people can WhatsApp their queries.

The ten member team includes **Dr. Shivakumar (94480-63168)** of Adichunchanagiri Institute of Medical Sciences, **Dr. Pratibha Pereira (94482-82506), Dr. Shyamsundar (99005-68339), Dr. Babu (98456-12305),** all from JSS Medical College, Mysuru, **Dr.Yogesh (98867-20117)** of K.R. Hospital, **Dr. Revanna (70227-99148)** and **Dr. Shashidhar (98450-31098)** both of T. Narasipur Taluk Hospital.

These doctors will provide telemedicine services to rural people from 6 am to 10 pm on all days, he added.

COVID Care Centre set up at Adichunchanagiri Hospital

Mandya, May 8- Expressing concern over the havoc caused by the second wave of COVID-19, Adichunchanagiri Mutt Seer Sri Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji said that the second wave is more deadlier than the first one, when the pandemic broke out last year.

He was speaking after inaugurating the additional COVID Care Centre set up at Adichunchanagiri Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS) at Bellur Cross in Nagamangala Taluk of Mandya district on Thursday.

Stressing on the need for people to get themselves checked immediately soon as they develop any symptoms, Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji said that there is no need for anyone to fear in case they test positive for the virus. Highlighting that maintaining the required oxygen saturation level in our body is vital, the Seer said that oxygen is needed only in times when saturation level begins to drop.

Pointing out that Adichunchanagiri Hospital has 159 oxygenated beds out of which 140 have been occupied, he said that there are 40 patients who are on ventilator support.

Emphasising on the need for asymptomatic positive patients to undergo home isolation, the Seer said that those who cannot afford home isolation can come to COVID Care Centre.

Highlighting the importance of getting vaccinated, he asserted that there are no side-effects and everyone should get the jab without any fear.

Mandya District Minister K.C. Narayanagowda, in his address, said that there are more than 1,500 beds in Nagamangala taluk alone and the infected persons are getting good treatment. Lauding Adichunchanagiri Mutt for setting up a 150-oxygen bed facility, the Minister assured of regular oxygen supplies to the facility.

Asserting that many natives of Nagamangala who had migrated to Bengaluru, have returned following the COVID crisis, he maintained that the situation was far better in Nagamangala taluk, when compared to Mandya, which is witnessing a consistent rise in positive cases.

Stating that a 500-bed facility will be set up at PES College in Mandya in order to meet bed demand in the district, he reassured of necessary oxygen supplies to the district.

Nagamangala MLA Suresh Gowda said that the taluk is witnessing 180 to 200 positive cases a day, out of which only 10 percent are getting admitted to Hospitals. He asked the people not to neglect symptoms and instead go to the Hospital for a medical check up. The MLA also stressed on the need for people to take preventive and safety measures and thus help in checking the spread of the virus.

COVID: Over 2,350 persons discharged from Hospitals on Friday

District records 22 deaths on May 7

Mysuru, May 8 (YDS&DM)- In a somewhat welcome news for the authorities, Mysuru District on Friday recorded more number of COIVD patient discharges than the number of people testing positive for the deadly virus.

Yesterday, the District reported as many as 2,350 discharges, while 2,246 people tested positive.

As on Friday, the District has recorded 94,599 positive cases, out of which 76,668 infected people went under home isolation or home quarantine. Currently, the district has 16,637 active cases.

However, in a disturbing news, 22 infected patients died of the virus on Friday, thus bringing the total number of deaths in the district to 1,294.

Meanwhile, the deadly pandemic continues to play havoc in Karnataka, with the State recording more than 48,000 cases on a single day on Friday, with Bengaluru city as usual topping the State with 21,376 cases.

The State recorded as many as 592 deaths, the highest single day deaths recorded in Karnataka so far since the pandemic broke out in March last year.

Stave off imminent oxygen war: GTD

'State Government not yet woken up to desperate need for rationing oxygen'

Mysuru, May 8 (YDS&BCT)- Hours after Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha objected to the visit of Mandya District Minister K.C. Narayanagowda and Chamarajanagar District Minister S. Suresh Kumar along with Police escort to carry oxygen cylinders from Mysuru's refilling plants, Chamundeshwari MLA and former Minister G.T. Devegowda (GTD) said that the delay in deciding oxygen quota for each district is leading to differences between the elected representatives. "Decide the quantum of oxygen before oxygen wars erupt," he warned.

Interacting with reporters at his office in Jaladarshini at an emergency press conference last evening, the MLA found fault with the State Government on handling the oxygen crisis. "Both the Centre and the State Governments will be held responsible if any accident took place. There is no end for people's suffering and the authorities have no clue on what's happening in ground situation. All are busy giving statements to media," he said.

"We are sitting on a time bomb and a tragedy bigger than Chamarajanagar District COVID Hospital where 24 persons died gasping for breath is waiting to happen in Mysuru," he warned.

He regretted that despite crisis situation, the Government had not so far ensured equitable distribution of oxygen in districts

MLA G.T. Devegowda

even after the Chamarajanagar deaths. In the absence of any guidelines by the Government, he said the District in-charge Ministers of Mandya and Chamarajanagar, K.C. Narayanagowda and S. Suresh Kumar came to Mysuru and took away hundreds of cylinders with full Police security.

In the absence of a clear-cut basic oxygen supply policy, the quantity of oxygen to be supplied for the districts is not fixed and this is leading to disagreements between the district administrations, elected representatives, Ministers and officials, he said.

"There is disagreement between Mysuru and Chamarajanagar, Mandya, Hassan and Kodagu districts in connection with the oxygen supply. Ministers and Deputy Commissioners are themselves visiting Mysuru with the Police protection to get oxygen cylinders. The Government should take immediate measures to avert a major tragedy," he warned.

"What about the oxygen needs of people in Mysuru when the stock here is exhausted? When the Centre has allotted oxygen quota for all States, why is the State Government delaying the allotment of quota to the Districts? Are we waiting for a tragedy?" he asked.

He said the Government as well as State officials had not yet woken up to the need for rationing oxygen.

While the State's requirement of oxygen is 1,700 tonnes, the Centre has allotted only 850 tonnes. "We must get our full quota. If the Centre is reluctant, the MPs elected from Karnataka should go to New Delhi and demand their due and party politics must be kept aside. The MPs must stage a dharna in front of the Prime Minister," he said.

People from other districts are undergoing treatment in Mysuru and the district needs 70 tonnes oxygen per day, but the district is getting only 30 tonnes, he added.

Praising the Andhra Pradesh model where all officers have been given responsibility of oxygen supply, medicine allotment and hospital management and where officers are held accountable even if there is a single death. "Here, in Karnataka, the responsibility has been fixed on Ministers. Will they perform? And there is no accountability here. In Andhra Pradesh, the system is working well while we are faltering," he said, expressing anguish over daily deaths.

BJP Medical Wing introduces tele-counselling facility to COVID-19 positive patients

Mysuru, May 8 (RKB&SD)- BJP District Rural Unit President Mangala Somashekar has stated that the Medical Wing of BJP has introduced tele-counselling facility to COVID-19 positive patients.

Addressing a press meet at BJP office here yesterday, she said, "People who are battling with mental health issues can access the tele-counselling facility introduced by BJP Medical Wing. As of now, we have received over 3,000 calls. Most of them are calling us to get hospital beds, ICU facility, oxygen and ventilators to which we have been responding positively and fulfilling their demands in time."

"In each assembly segment, we have set up helpline facilities. All our party leaders are involved in this process. We have been distributing medicine kits, free of cost, to each COVID-19 positive household. Our volunteers have also been actively involved in helping families carry out last rites," she added.

"District In-charge Ministers have now stationed in each district and are coordinating the relief work being carried out by district administration. When the country is moving ahead in its fight against the Coronavirus, there are many who are playing politics in this situation also. Instead, opposition parties should provided constructive advice to the Government. We need to come together and fight this pandemic in solidarity," she added.

"We have noticed that MLC A.H. Vishwanath has been unnecessarily criticising his own party leaders. This would certainly send a wrong message to the public. He is one of the senior leaders. Instead of passing comments publicly, he needs to discuss those issues in party meetings. If he continues to do the same, we would not hesitate to take action against him," she said.

BJP Rural General Secretary Mahesh Malawadi, Secretary Prasad Devanuru, Media Advisors N. Rajkumar, Vasanthkumar and C.K. Girish were present at the press meet.

Safai Karmachari Commission directs authorities for direct credit of Pourakarmika wages

Mysuru, May 8- Karnataka Safai Karmachari Commission has directed the concerned authorities to directly credit the wages of Pourakarmikas serving in all local bodies, to their respective bank account every month without delay.

Addressing a virtual meeting with officials from various departments across the State here yesterday, the Commission Chairman Kote M. Shivanna instructed the officials to implement a 19-point charter list containing the facilities and benefits for Pourakarmikas. Highlighting that UGD workers, scavengers and other cleaning staff should be provided with safety gadgets and wears, he said that officials must provide drinking water and identify appropriate spots for Pourakarmikas to have breakfast.

Maintaining that it is man-

M. Shivanna

datory to provide PPE kits to all Pourakarmikas who are engaged in collecting waste from homes of COVID infected patients who are under home isolation, Shivanna said that it is important to provide safety gadgets to other cleaning staff as well.

Pointing out that a medical test must be conducted on all cleaning staff and Pourakarmikas once in a fortnight in order to keep a tab on their health, he said that the district administration should take measures for treatment of those Pourakarmikas who test positive for the deadly Coronavirus. Also, the authorities must consider reducing working hours for Pourakarmikas in the wake of surge in COVID cases, he added.

He further said that Health Inspectors, Environment Engineers, Social Welfare Department officials and other concerned officials should take responsibilities for ensuring that all Pourakarmikas serving in local bodies get statutory benefits in this hour of COVID crisis.

Meanwhile C.R. Rachaiah, Member of District Safai Karmachari Vigilance Committee, has sought the intervention of M. Shivanna for the release of wages of Pourakarmikas and other cleaning staff serving in rural local bodies, who have not been paid wages for the past 3-4 months.

Ward-wise Task Force set up to combat pandemic

Mysuru, May 8- Day by day, positive cases in the district are increasing drastically. In an effort to combat the pandemic in an effective way, Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Commissioner has decided to constitute Ward Task Forces for micro-level work.

Each Ward-level Task Force will be headed by the Corporator and would consist of a Medical Officer from Primary Health Centre or a private doctor from the ward, an assistant, junior engineer, Revenue Inspector, a staff member from Police Department, ASHA workers as well as a person representing Non-Governmental Organisation.

Earlier, MCC in its budget had sanctioned Rs. 5 lakh for each ward to effectively contain the second wave of COVID-19. As a first step, it has now released Rs. 1 lakh during the advisory committee meeting which was recently held on May 5 under the Chairmanship of Mayor. This amount will be utilised for medical expenses after getting approval from the committee, according to a release.

ZP orders distribution of mid-day meal groceries to students

Mysuru, May 8- ZP CEO A.M. Yogesh has issued orders to distribute mid-day meal groceries to students of 1st to 10th class, as per the guidelines issued by the State Government.

Department of Primary and Secondary Education, in its circular, has advised departmental officers to accordingly distribute groceries for 132 days (November 2020 to March 2021) to eligible students. Distribution schedule will be prepared by Assistant Director (Aksara Dasoha).

All Primary and High School Head Masters will be present on scheduled date of distribution, according to a release.

WORD OF THE DAY

Celluloid

Pronunciation: sel-yuh-loid.
Meaning: Of or involving motion pictures.
Origin: The primary meaning nowadays of the adjective celluloid is "pertaining to the movies." The noun celluloid refers to the hard, explosively flammable plastic that formerly was used to make movies until about 1950 (it was discontinued because of its flammability and tendency to decompose). Celluloid was originally a trademark (1869), a word composed of cellulose and the familiar suffix -oid "resembling, like": Celluloid is something that resembles cellulose. Some people may remember from literature or the movies (or from Looney Tunes) the celluloid dickeys (pieces of clothing made to look like the front or collar of a shirt) that would pop out of a man's waistcoat or cummerbund and roll up to his throat. Krusty the Klown of The Simpsons wore a dickey in an act of his that bombed badly (The Last Temptation of Krust, February 22, 1998). Celluloid entered English in the second half of the 19th century.
Example: My wife and I knew Hollywood couldn't be trusted. Chances were that the true story of the Von Trapps bore only a passing resemblance to the celluloid version. — Jay Copp, "Move Over, Julie. We Search For The Real 'Sound Of Music.'" Christian Science Monitor, June 24, 2003.

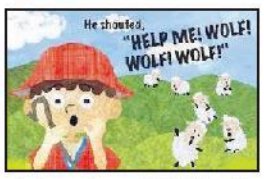
THE ODD WORD

Cachexic

Having an unhealthy physical or mental state.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Cry wolf



Meaning: To lie. This phrase refers to a person who lies or complains about something even though no real problems are present.
Origin: The saying 'cry wolf' is believed to be from Aesop, a Greek fabulist who is said to have lived around the time of 620 to 560 BCE. He wrote a number of different fables known collectively as Aesop's Fables. One of the stories credited to his name is called The Boy Who Cried Wolf. This story tells of a young boy who was given the responsibility of watching over some sheep for the night. The boy eventually grew bored with his assignment and thought it would be rather humorous if he pretended to be in danger, so he started to cry "wolf, wolf!" His plan worked, as the people nearby heard his cries for help and came rushing to lend their support. But they soon learned it was all a silly ruse. After this repeated a few more times, the people stopped listening to the boy. They no longer responded to him when they heard him yelling. Later, a real wolf showed up! Now the boy and the sheep were in actual danger, so he started to cry for help. But it was too late, because nobody would listen to him any longer. The moral of the story is that when someone constantly lies, they lose the trust of others.

QUOTE BOX

If you set your goals ridiculously high and it's a failure, you will fail above everyone else's success. **—James Cameron**

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

Answer: Tenon Saw.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

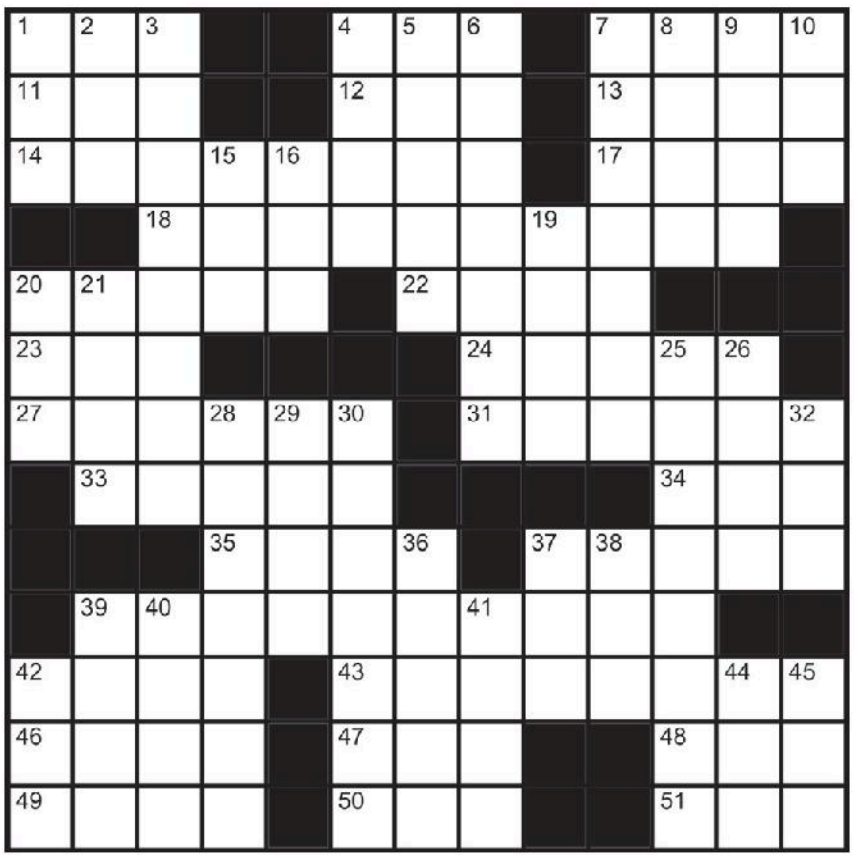
1 Subside or abate
4 Monetary unit of Bulgaria
7 Thick piece
11 Actress Zadora
12 Atomic mass unit, acronym
13 Ocean motion
14 Hellish
17 A Scottish dance
18 Shamefully wicked
20 A type of tropical tree
22 Skulk
23 Fifty two in Roman numerals
24 Staggers
27 Bicycle for two
31 Jewish fraternity
33 Anguish
34 Ireland's ___ Lingus
35 Abnormal membranous sac
37 Modern form of papyrus?
39 It has to be paid after a person dies (6,4)
42 Star's transport
43 Soonest
46 Colloquial way of saying `brother' ?
47 Natal or Jo'burg locale
48 GI address
49 ___ through : penetrates to the true nature of ?
50 Coniferous tree
51 Cereal plant

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

I	P	S			R	P	G		S	F	E	
Q	U	I	Z		E	A	U		H	E	L	I
S	T	R	I	C	T	L	Y		R	E	S	T
			P	O	D			S	E	L	E	S
T	E	M	P	O		D	H	O	W			
B	A	B	Y			R	A	N	D	O	M	
A	S	A			M	A	T			K	I	D
	E	S	C	H	E	W			H	A	K	A
			O	A	T	S		L	O	Y	A	L
I	D	O	L	S			A	I	L			
L	I	N	O		E	D	H	E	L	O	N	S
K	E	T	U		L	I	A		Y	U	C	K
	T	O	R		K	G	B			R	O	Y

DOWN

1 Prefix for dermis or glottis
2 Refuse-container
3 Mystifying
4 Auld ___ Syne: days of long ago?
5 Electronic message
6 Bird of prey
7 Small ____, fell big oaks ?
8 Stead
9 Fruit drinks
10 Deity of Babylonian religion
15 Inventor Whitney
16 Bollywood's Aishwarya __ Bachchan
19 Angers or rages
20 Space bar neighbour on the PC keyboard
21 Amer Inst. of Aero. & Astro.
25 It has 366 days (4,4)
26 Cut, snicker - "seen" anagram ?
28 Medical practitioners
29 "Orinoco Flow" singer
30 Enigma
32 Blunder, make a mistake
36 Pester or bother; pull one's leg
37 Something to spend in Kabul?
38 Air Transport Indicator
39 A great lake
40 Hook's henchman
41 ___ up : make oneself stiffly erect
42 Pounds abbr
44 Engage in espionage
45 One of five on your foot



SUDOKO

			3		6			
	9		2			4		
		1	4				2	
8	3				7			1
	4						6	
6			1				7	5
	8				9	1		
		4			1		3	
			8		3			

Answer to previous puzzle

6	4	1	8	9	5	3	2	7
9	5	7	2	6	3	8	1	4
8	2	3	1	4	7	9	6	5
4	1	5	3	8	9	2	7	6
2	6	9	5	7	1	4	8	3
3	7	8	4	2	6	1	5	9
5	3	4	7	1	8	6	9	2
1	9	2	6	5	4	7	3	8
7	8	6	9	3	2	5	4	1

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

JED VHF UMXKXFW KE YX OXMZEDO; JED

VHF'K UMXKXFW KE YX BZKKJ.

TODAY'S CLUE: V EQUALS C

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: The significance of man is that he is insignificant and is aware of it.

Forest Department red flags Thalassery-Mysuru Rail Line

State Government applies brakes on project citing irreparable damage to the ecology

Mysuru, May 8 (BCT)- Following an adverse report by the Karnataka Forest Department that pristine forests of Western Ghats (in South Kodagu and Mysuru) will be destroyed if the proposed Thalassery-Mysuru project is implemented, the State Government has stalled the project and has conveyed the same to the Centre, reports said.

The ambitious project, costing more than Rs. 5,000 crore, has been identified by Kerala State Government and it has entrusted it to Kerala Rail Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL). The survey work for the projects was entrusted to Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) for preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR). The KRDCL has submitted the Pre-Feasibility Report by proposing the alignment via Kutta (Kodagu district in Karnataka) to the Railway Board.

The survey was, however, not permitted in Karnataka due to stiff opposition by the Forest Department officials who reasoned that the project will spell doom for rich biodiversity of South Kodagu as the Railway line will pass through the lush green areas of Nagarahole National Park and Tiger Reserve, Kutta, Kanoor, Balele, Thithimathi before entering Mysuru.

The proposed Railway line passes through nearly 84-km of thick forests covering 49-km in Kerala and 35 km in Karnataka that are rich repositories of biological diversity having large chunks of tropical evergreen forest, the Forest Department said.

Following the opposition, the Kerala Government proposed an alternative route that has Thalassery in Kerala and Kadakola in Karnataka near Mysuru as starting and ending points and the route is via Sultan Batheri from Thalassery to Kadakola that does not cut through forests. Instead, the line will pass through H.D. Kote, Antharasanthe border, and reach Bavali village from where the line proceeds towards Kerala.

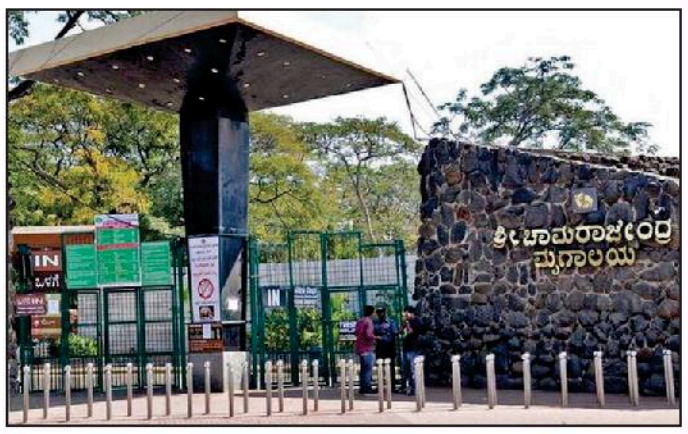
This alternative line, however, envisages a 22-kilometre tunnel at Antharasanthe Range of Nagarahole Tiger Reserve (Kabini area), Bavali and surrounding forests to avoid the rail line cutting through the forests. The proposed alignment passes through the tunnel between corridor of Nagarahole and Bandipur from Pulpally Taluk of Kerala to H.D. Kote Taluk of Karnataka.

Even this route has been shot down by the Forest Department and officials have said that tunnels are bound to affect water recharge underneath the forests thereby causing severe ecological damage to the habitat system.

Sources said that the Forest Department has also stalled the Nilambur-Nanjangud Railway line for which the DMRC has prepared a DPR. Department officials did not accept the project since the lines were passing through Bandipur and Nagarahole Tiger Reserves.

Though this Nilambur-Nanjangud line had been included in the Pink Book of Railways and Rs. 8 crore set apart for the DPR, the Kerala Government kept the project in abeyance following strong objection from the Karnataka Forest Department, sources said.

e-summer camp at Zoo from May 21 to 30



Mysuru, May 8 - Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens (Mysuru Zoo) is organising a summer camp for students in the age group of 12-18 years from May 21 to 30.

It is an e-summer camp wherein students will get exposure to basics of Captive Wild Animals Management and Wildlife Conservation. There will be e-classes over 10 days covering various aspects of these issues. Students can learn about Management of animals at Zoo, Animal behavioural studies, Conservation of wild animals, Wildlife crime and laws from their home.

One can apply online through Google forms before May 15 through the link given below: *https://forms.gle/6KAGrMJ7vrqkp4mR6.*

Camp fee of Rs.500 has to be paid through online to Mysore Zoo Account No: 1720-214-0000028; IFSC Code: CNRB0011720 Canara Bank. Necessary documents, that is, Scanned Copy of photograph (Passport size), Aadhaar card and fee payment details should be sent to: *edumysore99@gmail.com.*

For more details contact Ph: 0821-2520302 or 2440752 or Mob: 96866-68099, according to a press release from the Executive Director of Mysuru Zoo.

Karnataka appoints Nodal Authority for import duty waiver on COVID relief material

Bengaluru, May 8 (UNI) - The Karnataka Government has appointed a Nodal Authority to issue Authoriaation Certificate for exemption from import duty for relief material pertaining to COVID-19 containment and management.

The Nodal Authority consists of Uma Mahadevan, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development and Priyanka Mary Francis, IAS, Commissioner, Department of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, according to official sources here.

In view of the significant increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in the second wave, the Union Government has given exemption from customs duty for importing free of cost essential relief material pertaining to COVID-19 containment and management from foreign countries.

Those who are interested to import essential relief material free of cost for COVID-19 have to obtain Authorisation Certificate for exemption from customs duty.

CSR initiative: Canara Bank donates COVID combat amenities

Mysuru, May 8 - Canara Bank, Regional Office I, Mysuru, conducted Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Activity at Government Children's Home for Girls (Balamandira), Lalitha Mahal Road, Mysuru, on May 7.

As part of the initiative, COVID combat amenities like N-95 face mask, hand wash and hand sanitisers worth Rs. 25,000 for the inmates were donated to the officials in charge of the facility.

Region Head of Canara Bank, Mysuru Unit, I.P. Mithanthaya, Deputy General Manager and Mohammad Ismail, Assistant General Manager, Mysuru ROI, along with other staff members participated in the event.

The Orphanage authority thanked the Canara Bank for reaching out to them with support during this pandemic.

World Athletics Day: Athletes feted

Mysuru, May 8- Marking World Athletics Day, Mysore Yuva Balaga in association with Mysore Walkers Association had organised a programme at Kurubageri Shiva Temple here yesterday. MUDA member M.N. Naveen Kumar felicitated achievers Jayashree, Subba Shetty, M.P. Chandrashekar, M. Yogendra and Amarnath (all athletes) on this occasion.

Members of Mysore Walkers Association P.G. Sathyanarayana, P.G. Chandrashekar, Mallu, Kiran, Balaga Secretary Naveen and others were present at the event.

Former CESC MD Manohar Bevinamarad passes away

Mysuru, May 8- Former CESC (Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation) Managing Director Manohar. M. Bevinamarad passed away at a Private Hospital in Hubballi late on Thursday night following brief illness, according to family sources.

He was 60 years old.

Bevinamarad, a native of Hubballi, had retired as CESC MD at Mysuru just a couple of months ago.

Former CM Kumaraswamy prescribes 10-point formula to defeat COVID-19

Start Fever Clinics in every Ward, GP limits

File photo of Fever Clinic in Mysuru.

Bengaluru, May 8 (SSV)- Former Chief Minister and JD-S leader H.D. Kumaraswamy has given ten suggestions to the State Government to check the spread of Coronavirus in Karnataka.

H.D. Kumaraswamy

In a letter to Chief Minister B.S.Yediyurappa, a copy of which was released to the Press, he said the COVID-19 pandemic was increasing and putting excess burden on health system. The battle against the contagion must be still stronger. After discussing the current crisis with experts, doctors and others concerned, he has come up with certain suggestions which could be implemented to check the further spread of virus. They are:

1. Fever Clinics: Set up 3-4 Fever Clinics in every Ward, Gram Panchayat limits as it will prevent people with minor ailments from getting admission into Hospitals. This will also help to identify Corona positive patients.

2. Staff deployment: Deploy medical teaching staff and staff of National Health Mission in Corona control mission. Their services can be used in the management of COVID Care Centres and staff-crunched Hospitals.

3. Use AYUSH College, Hospital: Treatment could be given for asymptotic and mild symptom patients in AYUSH Colleges and Hospitals. This will reduce burden on other Hospitals and ensure treatment for all infected.

4. Care Centres: Medical Colleges and Hospitals, hotels must be used as Care Centres for asymptotic patients. Only those who require advance treatment must be admitted to hospitals.

5. Bed allotment power: Health staff at Ward and GP levels must recommend to the War Room regarding who should be allotted bed. This power must not be given to data entry operators.

6. One Officer for every Hospital: An officer of KAS or IAS rank must be appointed for each Medical College and Hospital to look after bed for patients, medicine and food supply. They must also fulfill needs of doctors and medical staff.

7. Fix responsibility for Officers: The Government must fix responsibility on Officer incharge of every Hospital and he/she must visit the facility daily. All requirements of patients and Hospital staff must be looked into and resolve them on-the-spot.

8. Involve volunteers: Volunteers who are fighting against the pandemic must be requested to come to the rescue of health system that is trying to save lives of people. Suggestions given by them could be examined before implementing them.

9. Vaccination & Awareness: Vaccination must be made available at Fever Clinics. Awareness must be created that vaccine checks the contagion.

10. Regularise committed workers: The Government must regularise the services of contract workers in Health Department who are doing exceptionally well in the current crisis.

States to get over 53 lakh COVID vaccine doses in next 3 days: Health Ministry

New Delhi, May 8 (UNI) - The Union Health Ministry on Saturday said that the States and Union Territories will get more than 53 lakh (53,25,000) vaccine doses within the next three days.

So far, over 17.49 crore free vaccine doses (17,49,57,770) have been received by them.

As per Ministry data this morning, the total consumption, including wastages, is 16,65,49,583 doses. More than 84 lakh vaccine doses (84,08,187) are still available with the States and UTs to be administered, the Ministry's statement said, adding that the States with a negative balance are showing more consumption (including wastage) than vaccine supplied as they have not reconciled the vaccine they have supplied to Armed Forces.

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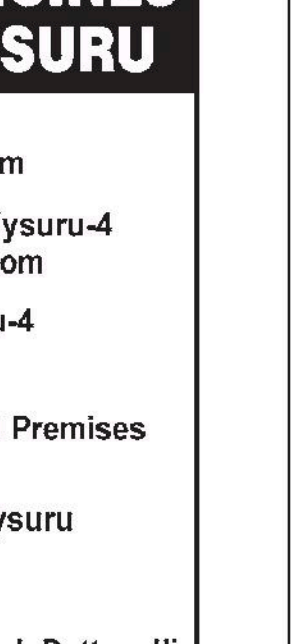

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